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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/556,397	11/10/2005	Benno Schiefer	32860-000956/US	6279
30596 7590 10/15/2007 HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. P.O.BOX 8910 RESTON, VA 20195			EXAMINER OLSON, LARS A	
			ART UNIT 3617	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 10/15/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/556,397

Applicant(s)

SCHIEFER, BENNO

Examiner

Lars A. Olson

Art Unit

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 5-8, 10, 13, 15, 17 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 4, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16 and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 November 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11102005.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

### DETAILED ACTION

1. A preliminary amendment was received from the applicant on November 10, 2005.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schwenkler (US 3,210,875).

Schwenkler discloses the same internal roof cladding for a large-capacity vehicle as claimed, as shown in Figures 1-5, that is comprised of a cladding element, defined as Part #35, that is arranged in a region of a door drive, as shown in Figure 1, and includes a bearing surface, defined as Part #33, for making contact in a precisely fitting manner with a complementary surface, defined as Part #32, that is formed on a further cladding element, defined as Part #31, and coving elements, defined as Part #36, which adjoin said cladding element in a longitudinal direction of said vehicle, as shown in Figure 1. Said further cladding element includes a bearing surface, defined as Part #30, for making contact in a precisely fitting manner with a complementary surface formed on an additional cladding element, defined as Part #29. Said cladding element and said

coving elements are also provided with a lighting unit, defined as Part #15, as shown in Figure 3.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 7, 17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwenkler in view of Bohm et al. (US 6,318,797).

Schwenkler, as set forth above, discloses all of the features claimed except for the use of a coving element that includes a lighting fixture that is fitted into a cutout in said coving element, and is detachably connected to said coving element.

Bohm et al. discloses a motor vehicle roof module, as shown in Figures 1-5, that includes a coving element, defined as Part #5, that includes a cutout, defined as Part #11, to allow for the detachable connection of a lighting fixture, defined as Part #13, as shown in Figure 2.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to utilize a coving element with a cutout for the detachable connection of a lighting fixture, as taught by Bohm et al., in combination with the internal roof cladding as disclosed by Schwenkler for the purpose of providing a roof cladding element with a means to facilitate the installation and maintenance of a lighting fixture.

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***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claims 2, 4, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Stanton et al. (US 6,416,116), Dealey, Jr. et al. (US 5,857,758), Arenberg et al. (US 2,587,807), Guernsey (US 2,502,320), Landell (US 2,264,637) and Leadbetter (US 2,251,682) disclose internal roof claddings for passenger vehicles.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Lars Olson whose telephone number is (571) 272-6685.

lo

October 10, 2007

LARS A. OLSON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

*Lars Olson*  
10/10/07